

USAFE, ATI Directorate, Italy, IR 115058, 25 February 1958

Visit to Bombrini by Walker, USAF Lt. Col. Among representatives of SISPRE (Italian Research Society on Reaction Propulsion) was Rolf Engel, an ex Peenemunde scientist living in Rome, who is a propulsion consultant to HP-D.

OO B-3, 102, 710, 18 April 58

Source civilian employee at Redstone Arsenal. (Knew Engel quite well when in Germany)

While still a high school student he became an assistant to Dr. Winkler who was doing some experimental work on rockets. After he entered the U. of Berlin to study mechanical engineering, although he never managed to obtain a degree due to other commitments.

During 1933-1936 Engel, with backing from the SA, tried to organize his own research and development team, but he was unsuccessful.

In 1939 Engel became technical director of a small rocket test station in West Prussia (Versuchsanstalt Grossendorf). Here he carried on some development work on small rockets for the SS. This was his main (Schutzstaffel-Elite Guard) assignment during World War II.

From 1947 to July 1952, Engel, with a few of his former associates worked as a consultant for the French government in Paris.

In 1952 Engel went to Egypt and became technical director of the "Compagnie des Moteurs a Reaction pour Vol Accelere" (CERVA). This French-Egyptian enterprise was working on an Egyptian government contract to develop a small artillery rocket. The company was nationalized in 1956.

In the spring of 1957 Engel and his associates left Egypt. To best of my information Engel is currently living in Rome, where he is a consultant to a group of Italian companies engaged in the development of an anti-aircraft rocket of the Nike-Hercules type. I do not know whether any of Engel's work concerns unguided rockets, and no studies are known to me to be available relating to the warhead or fusing of Engel's projects.

Engel must be considered as one of the earliest rocket engineers with a good background in rocket history. He also has considerable management

CO B-3, 202,710 (continued)

experience, but unfortunately he was never affiliated with one of the larger successful rocket development programs. Somehow he always managed to be in the wrong place in the development organization

CO-B 3,102,246, 18 April 1958

Source: US citizen, rocket engineer associated with a leading US research laboratory, maintains continuing contact with a number of foreign rocket and missile engineers. As had been reported previously, Rolf Engel, the former chief of the rocket section of the SS in the Nazi German government was in close and continuing contact with Soviet delegates Dr. L.I. Sedov and Dr. Alla T. Massevich during the Eighth Annual Congress of the International Astronautical Federation, Barcelona, 6-12 October 1957.

In subsequent correspondence with Engel, Source asked him for details of his conversations with Sedov and Massevich. He had just received a letter from Engel, dated 12 March 1958 in which is enclosed a complete report of his conversations with Sedov.

"Today I annex a confidential note about Professor S. I have had a few letters from him but the report about Sputnik results which he promised to send to me has not yet arrived. From Dr. Alla Massevich, I have received some greetings and some nice photographs from Barcelona.

I am preparing a paper about the history of the development of solid propellants for rocketry and I will appreciate any information you can send me. My best regards Yours truly, Rolf.

Note contained Sedov's comments about US Satellite program. He spoke very thoroughly about the history of the development of the US satellite project. He knows several technical details and is also well-informed about the administrative and personal difficulties involved. During our conversation on this, he said: "You know from your own German experience that a great scientific project will always turn out a failure when politicians or military people have too much to do with it. It seems to me that this is the case in America". When I replied that the Soviet govt. is using the Sputnik as a purely political weapon, he admitted that this was so, but he underlined the fact that politicians had never interfered in the development of it. Sedov said that the scientists had been able to obtain anything they needed to carry out their work and that they had been able to overcome very easily the initial opposition from the military authorities.

Note: The author of this report (Engel) using the information obtained in conversation with Professor Sedov succeeded in calculating the performance of the carrier rocket of Sputnik I. He was able to obtain complete agreement with all other known information about the Soviet T-3 rocket, an IRB, changing the third stage and maintaining the first and second stages, unchanged, it is possible to launch a 92 kilogram satellite into an elliptical orbit with an average altitude of 570 kilometers, the weight including the nose cone.

OO-B-3,113,180, 25 Sept. 58

Source: US citizen, engineer with a US industrial research laboratory. Closely associated with the International Astronautical Federation since its inception. He attended the 9th annual Congress of the IAF, Amsterdam 25-30 Aug. 58.

Had two opportunities for private talks with Sedov and Ogurodnikov. First one in the company of Rolf Engel, The german rocket engineer, currently associated with SISPRE in Rome, when the four absented themselves from one of the meetings and took a drive through the Dutch countryside in Engel's car.

14 February 1958

FBIIS

/ Rome, ANSA, Radioteletype in Italian to S.S. subscribers, Feb. 12, 58

Summary - Prof. Rolf Engel, a German scientist who once worked with von Braun and was assigned to the rocket and missile program in Germany until 1945, stated in an interview with an ANSA reporter that "among the European countries, Italy is perhaps the most advanced in the missile field.

OO-B-3,095,995, 29 January 1958

Source: US citizen, rocket engineer employed by a large US research and development laboratory.

One of more curious aspects of the 1957 IAF congress was the coverage accorded to it by Der Stern, illustrated magazine published in Hamburg. Since Der Stern is not a scientific magazine, I have been most puzzled by the scope of its operations in relation to US and Soviet rocketry.

I was approached by Wolfgang Lohde, identified himself as a correspondent of Der Stern. Lohde worked very closely during the course of the conference with Rolf Engel, former Nazi intelligence officer in the rocket field, who is now working in Rome. Engel put Lohde in touch with Soviet delegates L.I. Sedov and A.G. Mashevich and on one occasion arranged for Lohde to act as their chauffeur during a four hour sightseeing tour.

OO-B-3,091,064, 5 November 1957

Soviet Delegates to the 8th Annual Congress of the IAF, in Barcelona, 6-12 October 1957

Source: US citizen, rocket engineer associated with a leading US research laboratory. He maintains continuing contact with a number of foreign rocket, missile and space flight engineers. In particular, he has been in contact with Sedov at past IAF congresses in Copenhagen and Rome as well as at conferences in the US.

I would like to call attention here to the high regard in which Sedov and Mashevich obviously held German rocket engineer Rolf Engel. During the Congress Sedov probably spent more individual time with Engel than anyone else.

Engel is the former top SS man for rockets in the Nazi government. He has in his possession the largest personal technical file on rockets in the world. He also has a tremendously wide number of contacts in this field. Although I cannot vouch for him personally, I can say that I have always found his information reliable.

OD-B-3,099,821, 12 March 58

Source: US citizen, rocket engineer associated with leading US research laboratory, has wide international contacts.

Discussion with Lt. Col. Dr. Ing. Franco Florio, formerly Assistant Air Attache in the Italian Embassy in Washington, and now Washington representative of Centro Aeronautico e Atomico Italiano.

Because of my interest in Rolf Engel, the German rocket engineer now working in Italy, I asked Florio about the current work of SISPPE. Florio told me SISPPE is doing work on the only missile project now being given major support by the Italian Defense Ministry.

According to Florio Engel's Italian associates regard him as a controversial and somewhat unreliable figure and that the remarks heard most often about Engel are that he goes wherever he can get the highest pay and that he has no real engineering talent of his own, but simply stole a lot of good drawings at the end of World War II. I should note here that Engel has been regarded as a highly controversial character in every job he has held since the end of World War II.

Check with Berlin Document Center 9 Sept. 1957

Rolf Engel born 10/8/1912 in Mens Kreis Ruppin/Meck.